

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Location: 3535 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA 70816

June 21, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Edwin Parker, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Jack Harris, Douglas Hillensbeck, James Little, Angela Machen, Richard St. Pierre, Don Thompson,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Felicia Lee, Kenneth Welborn

VACANT SEAT: East Feliciana Parish, St. Helena Parish

ALSO, PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Jenna Linn-Rice

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Parker. Parker welcomed new Ascension Parish commissioner, Douglas Hillensbeck.
2. Roll Call (see above).
3. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Public Comments on Agenda Items: Representative Mincey provided an update on new bills of the 2022 Regular Session that were passed regarding flooding, drainage, etc. including HB 686, Act 490, which was recently signed by Governor Edwards. There were no other public comments on agenda items.
5. Minutes
The Board unanimously approved a motion by St. Pierre, second by Thompson to approve the May 2022 regular meeting minutes.
6. Financial Statements
Bailey presented to the Board the May 2022 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Thompson to approve the May 2022 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
7. Amendment #2 - Administrative Budget of 2021-2022. Several line-items were amended in order to comply with the 10% of "Actual vs Budget" rule as required by the LLA. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Bailey to approve Amendment #2 of the Administrative Budget of 2021-2022, as presented.
8. Nomination and election of ARBC Officers: The Nominating Committee suggested the 3 current officers remain seated as there will be ARBC Board members replaced come January 1, 2023, as stated in HB 686/ Act 490. Being there were no additional nominations, the Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Harris to keep the same officers in place for the remainder of 2022. The Board secretary remains the employee, Executive Secretary, Toni Guitrau.
9. Executive Director Report
 - Parker and Rietschier met with Concrete Aggregate Associates on June 2, 2022 to discuss a sand and silt traps study in the middle section of the Amite River. Parker said that between E. Feliciana and Watson there are 37 sand and gravel pits, some are abandoned. The Watson area is about mined-out and this would be eligible for the project to start there.
 - Harris said since HB 686 was officially signed by the governor, now ARBC unrestricted funds are frozen except for ordinary expenses. He said the project is being funded by CPRA through the PLD. They incorporated the idea that ARBC had on adding retention dams along with the silt trap. Rietschier said based on the cost of \$27 million per dam in 1995, the cost today would be approximately \$50 million per dam.
 - Draft Flood Inundation Map: A presentation was made by Stokka Brown of CSRS.
 - Rietschier reported the following from DOTD – CRDC Project:
 - a. Real Estate Status-84 Acquired: 1 additional parcel requested. ROW Map complete.
 - b. Utility Relocations Status - ongoing

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- c. Bridges: LA 964-bridge contract has been awarded.
CMAR LA 67-bridge designed, completed and construction contract executed.
CMAR LA 19 bridge designs completed and construction contract under review.
Other: HB 592/Act 170: is to pay \$8 million from the State General Fund (Direct) to the Implementation Program for the Amite River Basin Commission for the Amite River Basin Flood Risk Reduction Study.

10. ARBC Legal Counsel:

- HB 686/Act 490 was signed by the governor and has become effective. No unrestricted funds may be spent other than for operating services, etc. The Board discussed Act 490 briefly.
- HB 713/Act 228- authorizes any political subdivision to create one or more stormwater utility systems and adopt stormwater utility fees sufficient to plan, construct, acquire, extend, improve, operate, and maintain stormwater management systems, either within or without its boundaries. Further provides that any such system created pursuant to proposed law is a revenue-producing public utility pursuant to present law and shall have all the rights, powers, and privileges granted to such utilities by present law. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Hoover to request an attorney general's opinion (Resolution 1158) to see if this applies to ARBC.

11. Old Business: None

12. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by St. Pierre to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 pm.

APPROVED:

/s/ Edwin Parker, ARBC President
Date: 7/19/22

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary